

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is canceled. Claims 8-18 are allowed. Claims 2-7 are rejected.

Claims 2-7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Osaka et al. (US Patent No. 6,034,878) in view of Yeager et al. (US Patent No. 5,802,583).

Osaka and Yeager, individually or in combination, do not teach memory devices having a busy signal, as stated in the Reasons for Allowance of claims 8-18.

Claim 2 has been amended to include that the memory devices have a busy signal to indicate when the devices are responding to a control signal. This is not shown, taught nor suggested by the prior art. It is therefore submitted that claim 2 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of this claim is requested.

Claims 3-7 depend from claim 2 and inherently contain all of the limitations of that claim. As discussed above, the prior art does not teach, show nor suggest all of the limitations of the base claim, much less the further embodiments of the dependent claims. It is therefore submitted that claims 2-7 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of these claims is requested.

No new matter has been added by this amendment. Allowance of all claims is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.

Julie L. Reed

Julie L. Reed
Reg. No. 35,349

Customer No. 32231

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
1030 SW Morrison Street
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 222-3613